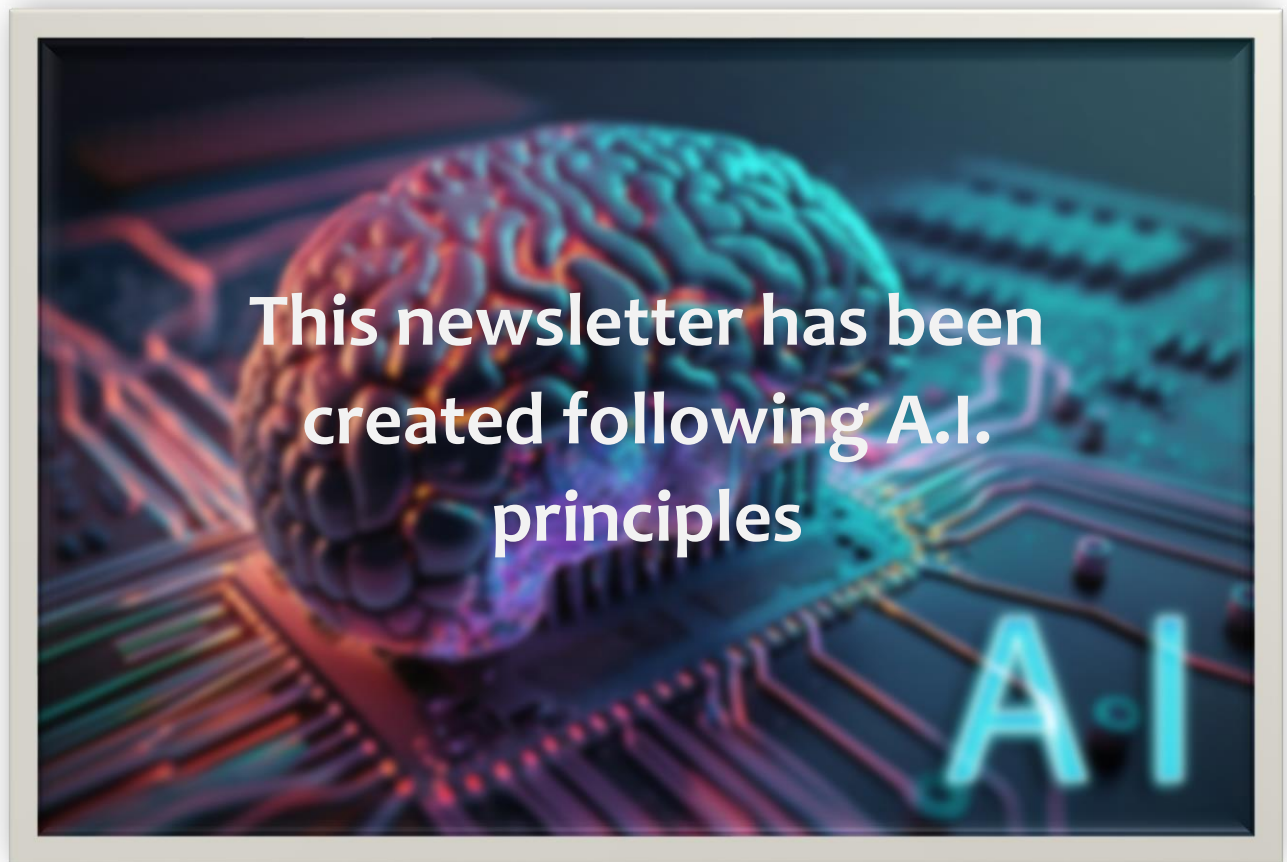




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NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025



This newsletter has been
created following A.I.
principles



A.I. = Actually Interesting



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COMMUNITY FORUM

Date and Time: Wed, June 18th . Doors open at 9:30 am

Venue: Bridge Club Rms, Neil Hunt Park, Tarawera Rd, Lynmore

Welcome to our winter get-together.

Enjoy tea, coffee and munchies (no charge!)

Want to know more? Call 027 310 8348

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On behalf of **Susan Ackroyd** (guest speaker April 2025), U3A has donated \$200 to **Adult Literacy Aotearoa, Rotorua branch.**



Literacy Aotearoa

Choice Change Freedom

* * * * *

Congratulations to **June Grant** (guest speaker October 2023).

Maggie Papakura was posthumously awarded a M.Phil on 30th April by Oxford University. This was a wonderful acknowledgement of the first Maori woman to study at the University

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U3A 2025 FORUM DATES

20 AUGUST (incl. AGM)

15 OCTOBER

10 DECEMBER



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Guest Speaker: Tracey Scott

Grand Master of Photography, NZIPP and Photographer of the Year, 2015.

With over 25 years of experience as a press photographer, combined with a Fine Arts degree, Tracey brings a broad range of skills to handle any assignment. Her work can be found in catalogues and brochures, on billboards, and in books and magazines throughout New Zealand.



Initially intending to work in art restoration, she found herself stuck in London without prospects or funds. There she completed a two-year course in photography and worked in a photo library until her work visa expired.

Back in New Zealand, her daughter Natalie was born in 1984 and photography was sidelined. But then she suddenly became “a solo mum with a mortgage.” She took a job as a press photographer at the Rotorua Daily Post.

20 years later she moved on to wedding photography. “As a news photographer, everyone hates you; as a wedding photographer, everyone loves you.” She also joined the Rotorua Camera Club, and met a group of talented and like-minded people who thought outside the square.

When her second marriage ended and she was again left with reduced funds and needing a house, the only place she could afford close to town was a century-plus-old Pererika Street villa that had



housed McCartney Antiques.. Her lifelong love of the “old and interesting” now morphed into the restoration of heritage houses. The work to make it habitable was extensive.

“I made substantial changes, repiling, reroofing and rewiring it. It didn’t have a kitchen, bathroom or hot water. There were bars on the windows, no insulation or heating.” Tracey lived there throughout the rebuild, remaining until she acquired **Te Hemo** – or, as it is affectionately known by many Rotorua residents, the Landmark.

Te Hemo represents three centuries of Rotorua history. Work on it began in 1897 and was completed in 1906. This was the period when New Zealand lacked skilled craftsmen able to produce a number of Te Hemo’s bespoke features, including its pressed iron ceilings and stained glass windows. They had to be custom built in Europe.



Te Hemo is the type of place that’s a breeding ground for back stories. One is that in the early 20th century it was known as that rare thing, a landlocked lighthouse. The turret light was the navigation point for Rotorua-bound travellers heading to the township in darkness.

She shares her home with her chihuahua-foxie cross May, Airb&b and dinner guests. The latter come from cruise ships or are directed to her by Rotorua manuhiri specialist company Epic Maori. Tracey regularly hosts local fund raising events. The most recent was a Sunrise Rotary Club Christmas themed cocktail party for its Hospice Endowment Fund.

That was followed by two “donate-to-visit” open homes. It was, she says, an “awesome experience”. She danced for Hospice at its inaugural annual fundraiser and is a former Sunrise Rotary president.



Tracey in one of the deep-seated chairs inherited from her grandmother

“I always see life through a lens. It is both a trial and a pleasure.”

*Information sourced from articles by **Jill Nicholas** and **Venetia Sherson***

Read more of Tracey’s fascinating story in Jill Nicholas’ profile

<https://www.inprofile.co.nz/inprofile/traceyscott/cy9gr-5mm8s-7666e-z3dsc-c48gc>.

View photos and descriptions of the lovingly restored interiors of Te Hemo by Venetia Sherson & Tessa Chrisp <https://ourwayoflife.co.nz/take-tour-photographer-year-tracey-scotts-century-old-rotorua-villa/>



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YOUR COMMITTEE

BRIAN GILLESPIE: <i>PRESIDENT & NEWSLETTER EDITOR</i>	027 310 8348
MELVYN BOWEN: <i>VICE-PRESIDENT & ALMONER</i>	07 345 3221
LIZ LOVE: <i>SECRETARY</i>	07 332 5608
PAUL GELLATLY: <i>TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY</i>	027 4987 124
JIM (Weiland) HARTWIG	021 027 47976
JILL NICHOLAS	027 424 3091
JOHN TURNER	07 345 6955
JUDY SOMERVILLE	07 357 2292
JULIA STEELE	021 155 6776

Committee odds 'n sods:

- **Weiland** had an argument with his shower fixture; 15 stitches to the scalp; wears a beanie.
- **Mel** had an argument with a lemon tree; broken ankle; hobbling to recovery with no loss of momentum.
- **Liz** and Don are off to Scandinavia.
- **Paul** has been in Japan (described elsewhere)
- **Brian** has had his low moments healthwise but is re-invigorating.
- **Jill** is writing non-stop; occasionally comes up for air.

Our Japanese Adventure 2025

A short summary by George Stucki and Paul Gellatly

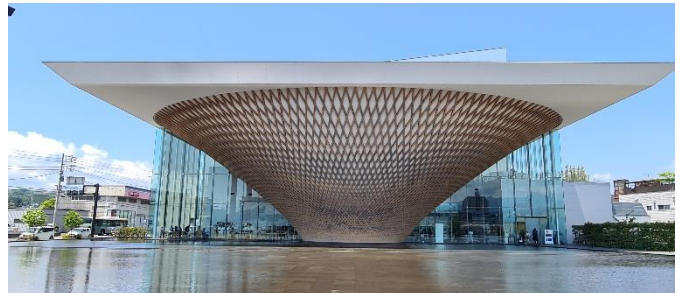


Photo 1 Cruise route

On 3rd May we flew to Tokyo and the next day boarded our cruise ship the Norwegian Spirit for a 10-day cruise visiting 7 ports in Japan and two in South Korea.¹

We learnt a great deal about Japanese culture and people. Everyone we met was both helpful and courteous. With a different port every morning, we were never bored.

We started in Shimizu where we visited a Sake brewery and viewed Mt Fuji and the incredible Mt Fuji World Heritage Centre.^{2 & 3}



Photos 2 & 3 Mt Fuji and the Mt Fuji Heritage Centre

Next came Nagoya where we didn't leave the ship; the travel had caught up with us. Then came Kyoto (Kobe) & Osaka where we visited the Osaka Castle, which was renewed in 1931.^{4 & 5}



Photo 4 Osaka Castle



Photo 5 Us in front of a Japanese garden in Osaka castle grounds

At Tokushima we went to see two of the 88 Temples which constitute the Shikoku Pilgrimage. To get to the 21st Temple Tairyuji Temple, we went on the longest cable car in Japan. The temple set in forests was serene and peaceful a complete break from busy city Japan.⁶



Photo 6 Tairyuji Temple

At Matsuyama we planned to stay on the ship, but we were hijacked by 3 American women and taken to see the Matsuyama Castle and the Imperial Hot Springs. Our taxi driver told us to keep an eye out for the police and duck down if we saw them. as only 4 passengers were allowed, not 5.

In Beppo we visited The Usuki Stone Buddhas, very impressive and then the Usuki Castle.

The last day in Japan was in Sasebo a major port in the south. Here we went to view and then sail around the numerous (204) islands on the ship The Pearl Queen.

We then left Japan for the island of JeJu in South Korea where we went to “The Spirited Garden” which was brilliant, huge, and filled with bonsai trees, some very old. The Garden was created by one man over many years.

That evening George went down with a bug (not covid) and was quarantined in his cabin. So the next day in Incheon, Paul went on a tour and saw The Memorial to the Invasion of Incheon by McArthur in the Korean War. That night, the rest of the gang illegally liberated George from his room and took him to a special restaurant on the ship as it was our last night. We flew home to NZ the next day.



Each newsletter, we profile a committee member.

BRIAN GILLESPIE



I'm an early Boomer, born March, 1947 in Te Awamutu. I was the fourth of six siblings (one deceased). Went to St Joseph's Convent and Te Awamutu College. Tried Vet Intermediate at Massey, Science at AU and ended up with an MA in English from AU. I taught at Kelston Boys (West Auckland), Dargaville High School, Rotorua Boys High and Coromandel Area School where the weekly assembly included five to eighteen year olds.

South Korea was my home for three years where I was employed as a Native Speaker teaching English to young Koreans in Hagwons or language institutes. And I was at Career Network for six years doing Literacy and Numeracy with students helping them to go on to tertiary study. I finally got my head around Unit Standards and I also taught adults who needed a literacy/numeracy boost.

I have been married for fifty-five years to Lynn. That's a few life sentences but we're OK with it. Lynn is a Waikato girl having been Head Prefect of Morrinsville College. We have three adult children, Kim, Sean and Kiri. Two grandchildren: Paddy (20 on 01/07), and Will (18) spear heading the JPC 1st XV.

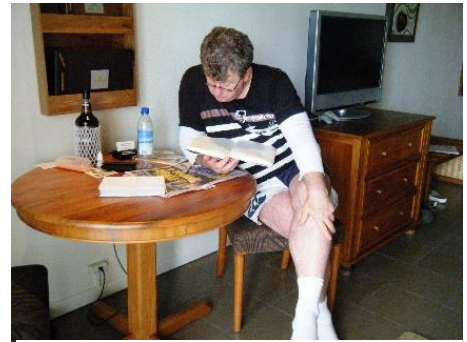
I played rugby at school, league in Auckland, and back to rugby in Dargaville. I had to swear an oath before a portrait of the Queen, and with witnesses, to get reinstated. I coached schoolboy rugby fairly consistently up to the late eighties.

A major area of input for me was Musical and Drama Production/Direction. 1993 stood out with Grease. Kenickie, a show-stopper, Andrew Savage, is now Principal of Tawa College, Wellington. There were eleven other substantial productions up till and including 1998 (Fiddler On The Roof).



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I was devoted to PPTA for over twenty-five years and held regional positions. That was when PPTA actually meant something. I was elected Boys High Staff Rep and previously, Staff Rep to the High Schools Board, about nine years all up.



Despite deteriorating eyesight reading has always been a favourite past time

My work in tutoring Oratory was extensive and ongoing. At least five national titles, the latest being Jack Potaka, RSA 2014.(He also took out the Impromptu at the Manu Korero Nationals that year). With Debating, my best teams faltered at Regional Finals, didn't have that extra kick. They wouldn't learn it watching Parliament currently.

I was Head Of English at RBHS 1980-1996 with a dozen staff some years. I battled with low literacy rates over the school and battled with providing solid curriculum for my own classes sometimes.

I joined U3A Rotorua in 2014, led the History group for several years and am currently Rotorua President.

I have been in Jaycees, am a Jaycee Senator along with Richard Nixon and Rob Muldoon.

Lions involvement was to the fore, 1994 till 2014. I belonged to a South Korean Lions Club whilst overseas .. and in more recent years, Toastmasters has taken up my time (along with U3A) .



I love cycling (not sissy e-biking) and would like to ride 100 km in a single day. I guess want could be my master.



The Māori New Year (Matariki) is a time of reflection, renewal, and reconnecting with community and whakapapa. Events planned for Rotorua include:

- * **Matariki Flavours Buffet** Every Thursday & Friday in June
- * **Tohunga Tūmau Dinner** 13 June | 5:30pm
- * **ARONUI Indigenous Arts Festival Drone Shows** 19 & 20 June | 8pm
- * **Rotorua Night Markets at Village Green** 19 & 20 June | 5-9pm
- * **Te Pō Kitakita - Exhibition of Light** 19 & 20 June | 5-7pm
- * **Ngāti Whakaue Hautapu Ceremony** 20 June | 4.30am
- * **Hautapu Ceremony at Te Puia** 20 June | 4.30-7am
- * **Whānau Fun Day at Te Puia** 20 June | 9am-3pm
- * **Hell's Gate Twilight Spa** 20 June - 30 August
- * **Te Mātahi o te Tau with 1814** 21 June | 7pm
- * **Matariki Glow Show** 22 June | 10am

For venues and further information go to <https://www.rotoruanz.co/m/matariki>





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ROTORUA U3A INTEREST GROUPS: Highlighting indicates that the group currently has vacancies (June 2025) For more information, visit our website: www.u3arotorua.com

Topic	Time	Contact
Art History	2 nd Mondays, 1.30pm	Anne Hunt 3487680 anneanddonhunt@gmail.com
Book Talk	3 rd Mondays, 2.00pm	Jill Nicholas 027 4243091 jill.nicholas@gmail.com
Book Reviews	4 th Mondays, 2.00pm	Enid Underwood 0273480030
Cities	1 st Wednesdays 1.00pm	Cate Frey 220853913 catefrey1@gmail.com
Cryptic Crosswords	1 st and 3 rd Tuesdays 10am C T Club	Paul Gellatly 027 4987124 Cate Frey 220853913
Current Events (1)	1 st Thursdays, 10.00am	Nan Miller 3455817
Current Events (2)	1 st Wednesdays, 10.00am	Annie Wells 027 459 5157
Films	1 st Mondays, 12.30pm	Judy Somerville 357 2292
History	2 nd & 4 th Fridays, 10.00am	Bob Christensen 020 4069 0982
Philosophy	4 th Thursdays, 1.30pm	Peter Wood 345 5099 stpeterwood@gmail.com
Photography	2 nd Tuesdays, pm Outings on 4 th Tuesdays	Dell Gee 021 050 2440 or 345 6557
Poetry	2 nd Thursdays, 2.00pm	Margaret Lett 343 9223 margaretlett@gmail.com
Ratbags	Check with Peter Wood	Peter Wood 345 5099
Science and Engineering	2 nd & 4 th Mondays, 9.30am	Mel Bowen 345 3221 mel.bowen@xtra.co.nz
Singing – The “Grey Warblers”	Twice monthly – time and venue notified by e-mail	Hilary Calman Hilary.calman@gmail.com
Visits	1 st Fridays, 1.30pm – can vary	Judy Somerville 357 2292
Wednesday Art	Every Wednesday, 1.15-3.00 pm	Mel Bowen 345 3221 mel.bowen@xtra.co.nz
Writing for Families (1)	1 st Fridays, 9.30am	Anne Stewart 345 9369 bastewart@xtra.co.nz
Writing for Families (2)	3 rd Mondays 10 am	Gordon White 273458634 poppagordie@gmail.com